

Recession engine; Trudeau's Just Transition an investment-killing enviro-appeal to green voters

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Body

Alberta is about to be plunged into another recession, or at least the Trudeau government is going to do its damndest to plunge us into one. Their stated goal for kicking the stilts out from under our economy once again (by my count, the third Alberta recession caused by a prime minister named Trudeau), will be to save the planet from climate crisis.

However, not coincidentally, crushing the Alberta economy would also help the Liberal Party firm up its support in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver, where many voters are completely clueless about how a modern industrial nation and economy work, but are easily pumped up by environmental bombast.

You can't win a majority government by winning seats mostly in those four large cities.

However, a party can secure a minority government with which to run the entire country by capturing just those four urban centres plus Atlantic Canada, which is exactly what the Trudeau Liberals have done in the last two federal campaigns.

With its pending Just Transition law, expected early this year, the Liberals hope to eliminate tens of thousands of well-paying jobs in the oil and gas sector, mostly in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and replace them with equally well-paying jobs in "green" energy.

There are two fundamental problems with this.

First, the bulk of high-paying oil and gas jobs are located where the resources are extracted and refined - the West. With "green" energy, the best-paying jobs are closest to where the energy is consumed - in Liberal-voting provinces such as Ontario and Quebec.

So under the Liberals' Just Transition, one of the first transitions will be people from Alberta having to move to Central Canada where the new jobs will be.

Second (and more importantly), the idea that transitioning workers from one energy sector to the other is as simple as retraining them is hogwash of the highest order.

There simply aren't nearly as many high-paying jobs in "green" energy.

The Liberal government of Ontario tried a very similar transition in the 2010s under its Green Energy Act. It cost the Ontario economy nearly 200,000 well-paying manufacturing jobs, while at most creating 12,000 new jobs in alternate energies. That's one job created for every six lost.

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That's what's in Alberta's future if the eco-cult known as the Trudeau government moves ahead with its Just Transition legislation.

Just Transition could cost tens of thousands of jobs in the energy sector. And that's not counting the home builders, landlords, car dealers, restaurateurs, retailers, grocers and entrepreneurs who rely on business from oil and gas workers.

Want to know the real kicker? Ontario's auditor general calculated that all the economic pain inflicted by that province's transition did nothing to reduce carbon emissions. The planet was not saved despite all those workers, families and businesses suffering.

Ontario does have the largest public debt of any non-national government in the world. Home electricity and heating bills had doubled, even before the recent price spikes. And Ontario's per capita GDP is only about two-thirds that of New York state, just across the line.

Such are the real-world economics of the "green" obsession.

The Trudeau Liberals aren't truly committed to the Just Transition. Their only real interest is in its appeal to enviro-voters, who are bought off by their pontificating.

For more than two years now, two federal departments - Employment and Natural Resources - have between them had \$2.9 billion to spend in transition programs for oilfield workers. So far, neither department has spent a dime.

The new Just Transition act may be equally a paper tiger. But its existence, even if unused, will scare away investors.

If you have any doubts about the wisdom of the Alberta Sovereignty Act, just look to the Just Transition.
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Graphic

/ (See hardcopy for photo); Postmedia File; The Trudeau Liberals' Just Transition law would only work to eliminate high-paying resource jobs in Alberta and create fewer green energy jobs in Central Canada - if the feds were truly committed to their own program.;

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